

Reddie & Grose

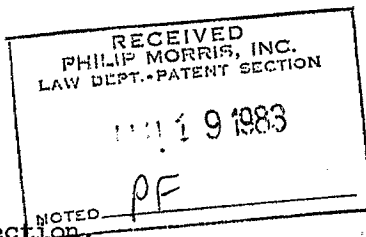
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Patents Designs Trade Marks

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DUE DATE 2-13-83
DOCKETED 1-14/CH
NOTED MEV

Dear Sirs,

Argentine Patent Application 290830
PM-1045 - Our File: 25221

We have received notification of an official action objecting to the present claims. The term for reply expires on 13th April 1983.

The Examiner's objection to claim 1 is as follows:

The process should be completely defined as regards the operative stages and conditions thereof. The sets of claims must be characterised. This is essentially a formal objection that we can deal with. To some extent the two objections conflict with one another, since division of the main claim into an introduction and a characterising part inevitably interferes with the arrangement of the claim as a sequence of operational steps. However, the Argentine Patent Office is largely indifferent as to whether prior art features appear in the introduction or in the characterising part of the claim, and our associates suggest the following rather more specific form for the main claim:-

1. A process for the denitrification of tobacco materials, characterised in that it comprises incubating under anaerobic conditions, at a temperature from about 45° and 65° C and at a pH from about 5 and 10 thermophilic and denitrifying microorganisms in a growth medium selected from among aqueous tobacco extract containing nitrogen from about 10 to 10,000 ppm or tobacco materials suspended in water at a concentration of about 5 to 20% solids by weight or tobacco materials humedified with water.

The features of claims 8 and 9 are included to meet the Examiner's requirement for stipulation of conditions in the claim. If the temperature and pH ranges do cover all potentially useful embodiments, then we would recommend the adoption of a claim of this kind.

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JHB/PC/25221

12th January 1983

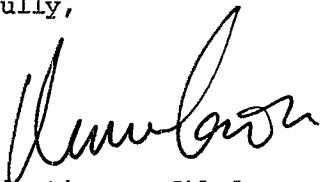
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The product claims must be made dependent on the method claim in order to conform to Argentine practice, but this does not in the present case introduce any restriction which is not already effective in the claim.

The Examiner requires that the claims to living organisms (claims 13 and 14) be deleted and our associates confirm that biological species are not patentable in Argentina. Are you content to accept this or do you wish to fight the point?

Please let us have your instructions in good time. We enclose for your file a copy of the text of the application as filed, which has recently come to hand.

Yours faithfully,



Enc: Specification as filed.

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